

waived and the Senate now resume legislative business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. President, I should add that Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach has done a superb job in the position he is currently occupying. It is time for the Senate to vote on this outstanding nominee. There are very few, if any, people who substantively are opposed to this nomination. Thus, I intend to use all the influence that I can to have him as Commissioner of FDA before we depart.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 107-12, the appointment of William Pickle of Virginia to serve as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4080

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4080) to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to settlement agreements reached with respect to litigation involving certain secondary transmissions of superstations and network stations.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 4048

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 4048 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6. I further ask consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and that the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to accommodate the weekly party luncheons. I further ask consent that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Robert Gates to be Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate, tomorrow, will conduct a period of morning business so that Senators may pay tribute to our retiring colleagues. At 11:30, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomina-

tion of Robert Gates to be Secretary of Defense. It is my hope and expectation that consideration of this critical nomination can be expedited.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:16 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate December 5, 2006:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

JILL E. SOMMERS, OF KANSAS, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2009, VICE SHARON BROWN-HRUSKA, RESIGNED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

JEFFREY ROBERT BROWN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, VICE BRADLEY D. BELT, RESIGNED, TO WHICH POSITION HE WAS APPOINTED DURING THE LAST RECESS OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STANLEY DAVIS PHILLIPS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA.

SAM FOX, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BELGIUM.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

GREGORY B. CADE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE R. DAVID PAULSON, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

HEIDI M. PASICHOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ANNA BLACKBURNE-RIGSBY, ELEVATED.

FREDERICK J. KAPALA, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE PHILIP G. REINHARD, RETIRING.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

MICHAEL W. TANKERSLEY, OF TEXAS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK. (NEW POSITION)